

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
AUGUST 25, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Scott, Sutphen, Ashworth, Furlong, Williams
Staff: Jones, Silsby

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Scott at 7:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF July 28, 2010 and August 24, 2010

MOTION: To place the Site Walk Minutes of August 24, 2010 on the Agenda

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Ashworth, so voted unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 28, 2010

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Williams, so voted unanimously

MOTION: To approve the minutes of August 24, 2010

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Williams, so voted unanimously

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS – None

V. PENDING

1. Walmart Expansion, 150 Gold Star Highway

Staff referred to documents distributed to the Agency in their agenda packets. She stated that she received a letter today from the State Department of Public Health. She gave a recap of the proposal to expand the existing retail store and related improvements to stormwater treatment.

Attorney John Knuff of Hurwitz, Sagarin, Slossberg & Knuff, LLC in Milford, CT., Daren Gray of Doucet & Associates, Inc. in Northampton, MA, and Soil Scientist Bruce Griffin of New England Environmental, Inc., were present for this application.

Knuff stated that he received four sets of comments (two from the Planning Department, Groton Utilities, and the Department of Health). It is his intent to provide one global comprehensive letter that will respond to all comments next week. He summarized the letter from Groton Utilities who gave positive feedback.

Giffin reviewed the wetlands on the map and gave details about mitigation and the planting plan. Information was also given about the soil that exists on the site. He noted that some areas have been scoured and debris is present. Griffin spoke about the different types of species that exist on site, as well as the invasive ones. He is proposing

to remove invasive species in one area on site. Details were given about the type of plants that may be planted.

Related to Furlong's concern about trash buildup, it was explained that even though the current debris will be removed, trash may build up again over time. She suggested that trash cans be placed or signs be put up on site to avoid this from re-occurring. Gray spoke about the proposed maintenance plan, stating that he could incorporate language in the plan to do an annual cleaning of the wetlands.

Gray stated that this site consists of 18.4 acres and the building is currently 120,000 SF. After the addition of 39,845 SF, the total building size would be approximately 159,000. He explained how the stormwater treatment plan would process water flow. He reviewed the phased construction plan. Details were given about impervious and pervious surfaces. Gray stated that there is only a 1% increase of impervious surface overall. Gray distributed documentation and spoke about the stormwater treatment train. Details were given about catch basins, manholes, separator hoods, and new pipes with diversion weir. Water runoff coming on site from across the street will also be treated. He stated that a maintenance system will be in place and noted that this system mitigates peak flows.

Gray will determine whether the loading dock will be used for garden center deliveries. Scott gave concerns about snow being piled up and mixing with trash, which can cause a hazardous situation. Gray will look into this but noted that this runoff should also go through the treatment train. Scott inquired about the condition of the drain pipes. Darren stated that the current stormwater drain pipes were installed in 1994 and Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) was used, which is still in existence.

Questions as to how the garden center will drain were brought up. A landscape strip is required at the front of the building. Knuff stated that fertilizer is stored inside the store and not in the garden center. He noted that sprinklers will be installed in the entire building. Gray gave details about paving operations, re-grading, catch basins, and temporary sediment traps. The construction will be done in phases. In regards to a concern by Scott about the potential for erosion when taking the silt fence out, he suggested that a gravel layer be used as a diversion dike to slow the water down. Members agreed.

Furlong would prefer a 25-year storm design plan instead of a 10-year storm design plan. Pros and cons were discussed. Gray stated that the drainage from across the street has been included in the drainage calculations.

Discussion followed about the types of plants that might be installed. Gray stated that a landscape architect will be doing a full design, which will include some wetland plantings. Furlong is concerned about slowing down the flow. Griffin noted that the restoration plan could be changed to include a rock to slow things down. He added that only a small portion of the wetlands are on the Walmart property.

Knuff will have responses to comment letters prior to the next meeting scheduled for September 8, 2010. Staff will then get a narrative to all IWA members for review.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Wilson Property, 0 Lambtown Road, Show Cause Hearing

Staff stated that the Wilson's have asked to continue the hearing until the September 8, 2010 Wetland meeting, in hopes that the restoration plan has been finalized.

MOTION: To continue the Show Cause Hearing until September 8, 2010

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Ashworth, so voted unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Chair

It was noted that paving on Fishtown Road has begun. Staff stated that the curbing should begin this week.

Williams has noticed that more areas around town have been sprayed. Staff stated that she had spoken to Public Works Director Schneider. It was noted that the State may be doing the spraying along state roads.

Furlong inquired about the status of the work that Nicholas Woviotis was doing at Avery Park.

2. Report of Staff

Staff stated that Planner II Diane Glemboski will be taking DEP Wetland training classes so that she can staff the Agency, if needed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Dave Scott, Chairperson
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Robin Silsby
Office Assistant II